A Willful Muse
and
Friendship Scans

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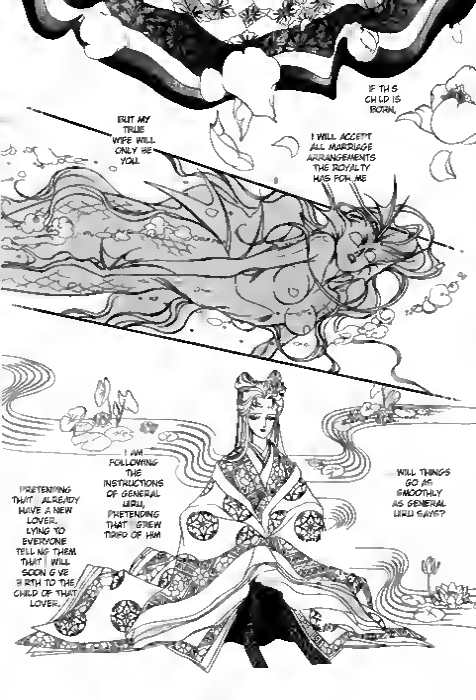
SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS... MUST YOU MAKE ME SAY THEM AGAIN!?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?! PRINCESS HATSHIDATE!
I, WHO HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH GENERAL UEKI, LAMENT-ED MY LOWLY STATUS.
HOWEVER... I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS AS A TABOOED LOVE

AND SHE HAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ME FROM SEEING GENERAL LIBUS AGAIN.
OUR SECRET DATE WAS BEING DISCOVERED BY AUNTIE.
SINCE I AM THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD BORN OF MOTHER AND THE EMPEROR.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING, HAGHIPATE!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER THING YOU JUST TOLD ME.
DID YOU SAY THAT YOU'RE PREGNANT WITH MY CHILD?

WHAT IS THIS?
WE'LL MAKE YOU SEE...
ALTOJN.
A DREAM.
A REAL DREAM.

A PAST MEMORY
HASHIDATE! KEEP THIS CHILD YOU MUST BIRTH IT
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE GENERAL LIRLI!
BECAUSE THE CHILD BORN OF A FORBIDDEN LOVE IS NOT EXPECTED TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD!
I KNOW THE BLOOD-LINE OF THE CLAN IS CONTROLLED BY THE ROYALTY
EVEN IF A CHILD IS BORN ILLEGIT IMATE IT CAN STILL LIVE IN SECRET
THAT'S A LIE PRINCESS HASHIDATE!

GENERAL LIEU!
YOU WOULDN'T BE BEFORE ME NOW
IF IT REALLY IS AS YOU DEPLORED THAT IT IS NOT PERMITTED
AREN'T YOU THE DAUGHTER OF THE EMPEROR?
YOU ARE THE BEST PROOF
ARE YOU WILLING TO FULFILL MY WISH? HASHIMATE
I WANT THE CHILD OF YOURS AND MINE TO LIVE
WE JUST NEED TO HIDE IT FROM THE ROYALTY


IF THIS CHILD IS TRUTHFUL
I WILL ACCEPT ALL MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS THE ROYALTY HAS FOR ME
BUT MY TRUE WIFE WILL ONLY BE YOU.
I AM FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS OF GENERAL LIEU, PRETENDING THAT I GREW TIRED OF HIM
WILL THINGS GO AS SMOOTHLY AS GENERAL LIEU SAYS?
I'M PRETENDING THAT I ALREADY HAVE A NEW LOVER, LYING TO EVERYONE TELLING THEM THAT I WILL SOON GIVE BIRTH TO THE CHILD OF THAT LOVER.

YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT SUB-ORDINATE TO GENERAL LI PU
I WILL FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF GENERAL LIHU AND PRETEND TO BE YOUR HIGHNESS'S LOVER.
LEAVE IT TO ME PRINCESS HASHIDATE
IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN SUCH THINGS GENERAL LIEU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TRUST YOU AGAIN!
ESPECIALLY IN THIS CASE THAT IS ONLY PRETENDING TO BE HIS RIVAL, YOU NEED NOT TO WORRY
OUR LORD-SERVANT RELATIONSHIP WILL NOT BE DAMAGED
EVEN IF NOTHING IS SAID
IN THE TEN MONTHS TO COME UNTIL YOU SAFELY GIVE BIRTH I WILL PROTECT YOU IN SECRET

PRINCESS HASHI DATE HAS SUCCESSFULLY GIVEN BIRTH TO A GIRL
PLEASE BE AT EASE, GENERAL TOKUI
OF COURSE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT CHILD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
THIS GIRL WILL AS YOU HAVE INSTRUCTED WILL BE GIVEN TO THE FOREIGN MERCHANT LIVING IN MIYAKO TO SERVE AS HIS ADOPTED CHILD
ACTUALLY, I WANT'S TO SEE HER HANDSOME.

DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT MY DAUGHTER WILL NOT BE BROUGHT UP AS AN ADOPTED CHILD BUT A SERVANT INSTEAD?!
WHAT WHAT IS YOU SAY?
SINCE THE CHILD IS TO BE SENT OFF IN THE FORM OF COMMERCE
IT MUST BE DONE WITH N THREE DAYS.
IF YOU WISH TO SEE HER,
THIS IS THE PLAN THAT THE PRINCESS AND I CAME UP WITH THESE PAST TEN MONTHS.
I CANNOT ALLOW IT!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

THE BACH CLAN IS EVERYWHERE
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR THE PRINCESS AND GENERAL URU
BECAUSE OF THE BACH CLAN!
SO PLEASE FORGET ABOUT THE CHILD IN A FEW YEARS...
MOVE!
I'M GOING TO SEE HAGHIDATE
PLEASE UNDERSTAND!
THIS IS TO PROTECT BOTH OF YOUR LIVES

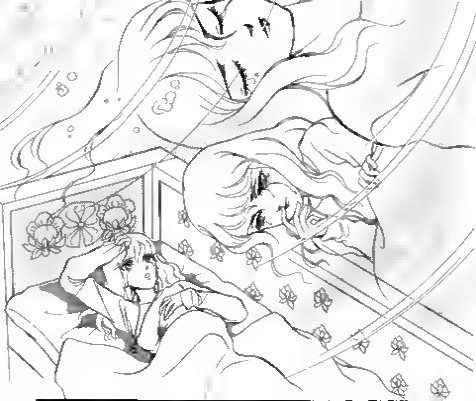
HAND OVER THE CHILD!
HAND IT OVER OR LOSE YOUR LIVES.

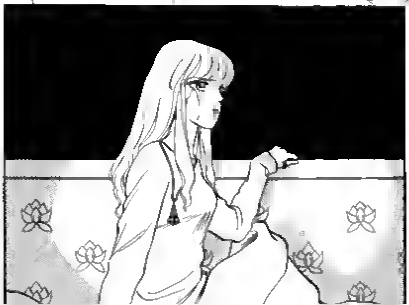
THE ROYAL FAMILY WISHES TO INTERROGATE YOU
ALRIGHT COME HERE PRINCESS
FOR THE REASON OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP KNOWING THAT YOU ARE CLOSE BLOOD KINS
!!

...THE GIRL'S SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW.

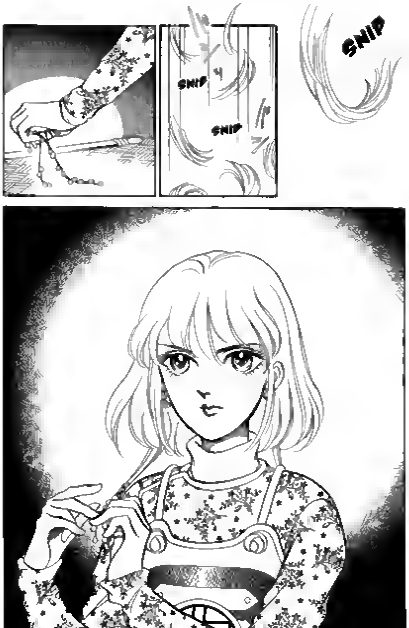
SEARCH!
IF YOU FIND ANY NEWBORN INFANTS
KILL THEM ALL!

LISTEN!
YOU ARE THIS CHILD'S GUARDIAN.
EVEN IF YOU DIE YOU HAVE TO PROTECT AND ENSURE THIS CHILD'S SAFETY!
IN CASE OF AN EMER-GENCY
TRY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO ENTRUST HER TO SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW ANYTHING
SOMEONE WHO CAN PROTECT HER WITH-OUT HE NG INVOLVED
SOMEONE WHO CAN NURTURE HER WITHOUT BE NG INVOLVED
JUST LIKE THIS.





M..MOM,
WAS ?
I HAVE THIS FEELING
THAT WAS REAL
WHY? EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A DREAM.
WASN'T ABANDONE


SNIP
SNIP
SNIP

ONCE YOU BECOME A LADY
RIGHT NOW YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR HAIR HANGING LOOSELY
BUT ALTOJIN
IN THE PAST, IT WAS HOTO'S MOM WHO CUT MY HAIR...
YOU MUST COMB IT AND KEEP IT NEAT
WHEN YOU BECOME A LADY

CLINK

ALTOJIN
THIS IS ?

"ENCHANTMENT" I'M PREPARING THE PLACE TO PRAY TO THE GODS
SINCE I'M A WITCH.
I'VE ALREADY ASKED EVERY ONE TO PREPARE ALL THE THINGS I NEED FOR ME
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE JUST SUBSTITUTES I'M SURE IF I PUT MY HEART INTO IT I'LL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE "EXORCISM"

...AH!
IT'S TRUE. WHEN I'M STANDING HERE I CAN FEEL SOMETHING IN MY BODY CRACKLING...

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? YOU MUST BE WEARING UNDER GARMENTS
HOW COME? PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS METAL ARMOR.
THE ENCHANTMENT I'VE PLACED DOESN'T HAVE ANY POWER OF THAT SORT
LIAR!
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO IN MY POWER
ACTUALLY THIS IS A SPIRITUAL SUPPORT IN ORDER FOR THE KHAN NOT TO BE REMINDED THAT I LOOK LIKE ISHEL
OTHER THAN JUST LOOKING LIKE ISHEL, I HOPE THAT MY STAY HERE HAS ANOTHER PURPOSE
I DON'T WANT TO SIT AROUND DOING NOTHING, ONLY BEING FED BY OTHERS
IN THIS COUNTRY IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WITCHES CAN BE USEFUL.

MY JOB IS TO TAKE THE SACRED DANCE
AND PRESENT IT TO THE GOD IN THE HEAVENS
EVEN THOUGH BACK IN MIYAKO
ALL OF THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DONE IN VAIN

УААННИН...
NEXT!

НУ АН!
О АНН!
РУБ.
ШИАН!

AMAZING. IT LOOKED LIKE SHE ONLY TURNED
IF THAT WAS THE ENEMY THE NECK WOULD HAVE SNAPPED SCARY
IT ALWAYS FEELS AS THOUGH WE'RE NO MATCH FOR HER—
I GIVE UP!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
IF YOU TRY, YOU CAN DO IT TOO!
NEXT!
UHN—

THE REASON WHY THE MEN LOSE IS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THAT ANXIETY
RIGHT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FEEL ASHAMED FOR THE MEN
HAS THAT GIRL BEEN POSSESSED BY A DEMON?
SHE LOOKS BEAUTIFUL EVEN WHEN FIGHTING

THE GIRL WON'T EVEN GIVE A GUY A CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF AND SAVE HER.
AS FOR ME, WHO'S ALREADY OVER THE HILL, I SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.
IF THAT SO
95

WHAT DO YOU KEEP SPILL IT?
IF YOU DON'T TALK
WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT?
PRINCE ISMAIL
THE KHAN'S ARMY
SOON DEPARTING FOR ARYAKO.

OH, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE LEFT HEHNO IN CHEGUL FOR THE SAKE OF DEFENDING THE NATION !
WHENEVER I THINK
THAT THAT GIRL IS BY OLGBOLT'S SIDE
I GET WORKED UP
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MAGIC OF THE SIX COLUMNS
YOU CAN ATTEND TO THE PALACE AT ANY TIME
DO YOUR BEST TO KISS UP TO THE EMPEROR.
DON'T LET HIM TAKE THE PEONY FOR HIMSELF !

BUT I'M AFRAID...!
THAT THAT GIRL'S PEONY WILL COME IN CONTACT WITH MY DRAGON

(CHANTING)
(CHANTING)
I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN THE POWER OF WITCHCRAFT.
BUT, JUST TO BOOST THE MORALE OF THE SOLDIERS, I WANT YOU TO COME WITH US.
I REQUIRE YOU TO TRAVEL WITH US AS A "WITCH".
SPLENDID.

I AM GOING TO CONTROL HER LIKE I DID SUBEI.
AFTER THE KHAN SETS OFF
HE'S TAKING LAITOYA WITH HIM?
GIVE THIS WITCH A TENT AS WELL
steps in
stuck

NOTHING. I'M JUST JEALOUS THAT YOU GET TO TRAVEL WITH BIG BROTHER.
WHAT IS IT?
THANK YOU
I WISH YOU A SAFE TRIP!
MY POWER IS WEAKER THAN THAT OF THE GRAND EMPEROR.
BAH! I INFORM THAT WOMAN HAS ALREADY ESCAPED THE GRASP OF THE GRAND EMPEROR MANY TIMES
I WAS CARELESS.
IT IS RUMORED THAT THE SAIKU FAMILY HAS THE ABILITY TO AVERT "CURSES"

I HAVE NO ATTACHMENT TO THESE PLAINS ANYWAYS
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MUST GO TO MIYAKO
IN THE ENCHANTMENT OF "MIYAKO" THERE IS A TRAP WAITING
WHILE I AM AWAY FROM THESE PLAINS I BESTOW THE AUTHORITATIVE POWER TO MY BROTHER, HAMAL
THIS MAN !

PERHAPS I WON'T BE ABLE TO...
RETURN TO THE PLAINS

NO
I WILL RETURN...
DEFINITELY!

AT LAST ...
THE ARMY OF GENGHIS KHAN OLJEÏTOU HAS SET OFF ACROSS THE SEA OF GRASS
THE VASSALS OF THE EMPEROR THAT ONCE APPEARED AT THE BORDERS OF THE PLAINS WILL NO LONGER OBSTRUCT THE PATHS OF THE KHAN

THE KHAN WHO WAS RECOGNIZED AT THE KURULTAI IS RECEIVED COURTEOUSLY BY THE CLAN CHIEFS
AND THE SPIRITS OF THE OH GUL SOLDIERS WHO OFTEN CAMPED OUT IN THE WILD HAVE BEEN RAISED
BUT NOT ONE OF THEM

KNOWS THAT AMONG THE ALLIED SOLDIERS THERE IS ONE WHO HAS THE STRENGTH OF THE MOST POWERFUL EXPLOSIVES
YEAH

THE KING OF PALMIS AMUMAHARU HAVING JUST CROSSED SWORDS WITH HIS WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM CHIGU
HOW SLY IF SO THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME!
AT THE SAME TIME
WHAT DO YOU SAY?!
YOU'RE PLANNING ON MEETING THE KHAN IN MIYAKO?
IS ON THE WAY TO MIYAKO
MEHE

THE LEADERS HEADING TO MIYAKO AT THIS TIME NO THE SUCCESSORS KNOW VERY CLEARLY AS WELL
THE WHEEL THAT HAS STARTED ROLLING IS PUTTING EVERYONE ON EDGE
I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL
THERE SHOULDN'T ONLY BE ME
HOW WILL MIYAKO TREAT CHIGUL?
AND HOW WILL CHIGUL PRESENT ITSELF AT MIYAKO?
EVERYTHING IS ABOUT TO CHANGE NOW

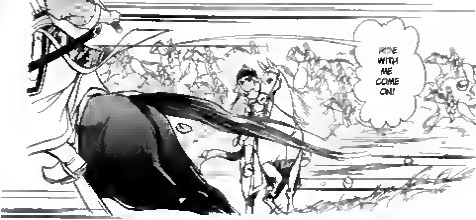
オオオオオ

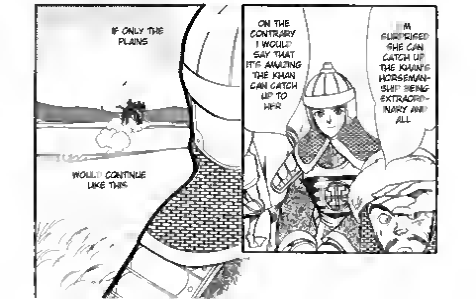
ASSEMBLE
ドドドドド
OK, RIGHT!
SPREAD OUT!

UH-HE LIEVE ARLE
AND HERE I THOUGHT LETTING HER DIRECT THE TROOP SO SUDDENLY WAS TOO BOLD!
ON THE CONTRARY IT'S PERFECT
ALTOJIN'S COMMANDS ECHO IN THE MIND

HUH?
AFTERALL I'VE BEEN BOUNCED OFF BY THAT GIRL'S "HI" MANY TIMES.
WITH A VOICE THAT CARRIES "ALL" THE COMMANDS WILL REACH EVEN WHERE THEY NORMALLY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO

FOR YOU WHO'S LEAST SKILLFUL IN COMMANDING OTHERS. THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO GETTING THE HELP OF A HUNDRED OTHERS!
VALIANT DARE.
IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, TRY IT FOR YOURSELF!
AND IT INFLUENCES YOU TO OBEY HER, TOO
WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?
OK! ALTOJIN, MAKE THE TROOP GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL FORMATION
SINCE HIS CRITICISM WASN'T ILL INTENTED I CAN'T GET ANGRY
MARCH ON!


RIDE WITH ME COME ON!!


IF ONLY THE PLAINS
WOULD CONTINUE LIKE THIS
ON THE CONTRARY I WOULD SAY THAT IT'S AMAZING THE KHAN CAN CATCH UP TO HER
M-MISTRESS? SHE CAN CATCH UP THE KHAN'S HORSEMANSHIP BEING EXTRAORDINARY AND ALL

HAVE YOU HEARD? THE KING OF THE "LAWS" IS IN FACT AMBITIOUS!
HE ALREADY GOT HIS SOLDIERS READY TO BATTLE EVEN BEFORE THE EMPEROR ASKED HIM TO!
DOES HE PLAN TO INVADE MIYAKO?
NO WAY!
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO IMPRESS THE EMPEROR.
HE'S GIVEN THE CHANCE TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE AGAINST THE YEN OF THE NORTH. IF HE GETS LUCKY AND WINS, HE HAS GRANTED THE LAND IN THE NORTH WILL NO LONGER BE A DREAM.
THEY'RE PROBABLY AFRAID THAT THE PAYMENTS FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WILL DECREASE
THAT'S WHY OBIISHA OF THE NORTH AND TOLIS TAI OF THE SOUTH HAS TAKEN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THEM, BOASTING THAT THEY DON'T NEED REINFORCEMENTS FROM CHIGUL

I HOPE IT'S NOT SPECIAL TREAT MENT
I WONDER WHAT THE EMPEROR SEES IN THAT BRUTE
BUT THE EMPEROR SAID THAT IF CHIGUL DOESN'T PARTICIPATE, THEY CAN'T INVADE YIN

BETTING IN THE TROOPS THAT HAVEN'T EVEN ARRIVED AT MIYAKO YET USING HOW THE EMPEROR WOULD TREAT CHIGUL TO MEASURE THEIR OWN WORTH
THE GOSSIPS OF THE LOWER CLASS ARE REALLY LOW CLASS
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE STAND ON THE SAME SIDE WITH THEM A LITTLE?

LET'S JUST SKILL FULLY MIX IN WITH THEM.
WHETHER IT'S OKISHA OF THE NORTH, TOU'S TAI OF THE SOUTH, OR CHIGUL OF THE PLAINS
IT DOESN'T MATTER MUCH ONE WAYS

WHERE ARE YOU GOING BARDOT ?
JUST THE REST ROOM, FATHER.
I WON'T EXPECT THEM TO TAKE SIDES ALREADY AFTER ONLY HEARING THAT CHIPUL IS COMING
WHETHER COUNTRIES ARE FOR THE NORTH OR FOR THE SOUTH, ALL OF THE COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEIR FAVORS EXCEPT FOR THOSE MORE CONFIDENTONES

BASED ON THE RISE AND FALL OF CHIGUI'S STRENGTH, THE SIDES WILL BE MORE POLARIZED
LET'S JUST WAIT FOR THE BATTLE TO END TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO CHANGE
LET'S JUST OBSERVE FOR A LITTLE LONGER.
EVEN IF THAT MAN IS A LEASABLE MAN,
THEY CAN'T LET HIM MARRY THE DAUGHTER JUST LIKE THAT

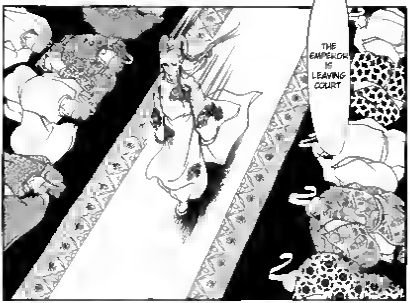
YOURS MOST HUMBLY HAS COME TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOUR HIGHNESS!
PLEASE MAKE HASTE TO ORDER OERSHA TO GO AFTER YOI...
THE MASTER OF YOURS MOST HUMBLY KAROFF HAS ALREADY GOT YOI BY THE NECK WE ARE ONLY WAITING FOR YOUR HIGHNESS TO GIVE THE ORDER
"BREAK THE NECK!"
hmph

NEXT,
THE EMISSARY OF TOLS-TAI
HA!!
HA!!
BASTARD! YOU TOUCHED THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR, YET YOU DON'T EVEN SAY A WORD OF APOLOGY?
RIDICULOUS...! GETTING WORKED UP OVER SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL, CAN YOU REALLY CALL YOURSELF A WARRIOR?

I DIDN'T THINK THAT EVEN THE TROOPS' EMBASSY HAS BECOME A FEMALE AS WELL.
I'VE HEARD THAT THE KING OF TOLS-TAI HAS FALLEN ILL AND HAS GIVEN THE COMMANDING POWERS OF THE TROOPS TO HIS DAUGHTER, BUT
SO WHAT
YOU ARE A WOMAN, RIGHT?
OTHERWISE I WOULD MAKE YOU REGRET HAVING EVER INSULTING WOMEN.
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR THE REGULATIONS THAT FORBID ANYONE FROM CARRYING WEAPONS UPON ENTERING MIYAKO
BOTH OF YOU STOP IT. HIS HIGHNESS IS WAITING. DO YOU THINK YOUR REPUTATIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE EMPEROR?
WHAT...

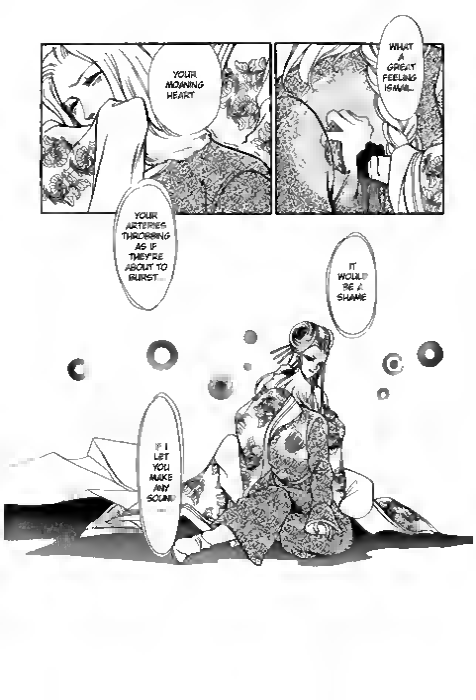
TCH.
THE EMISSARY OF OBISHA CLAIMS THAT THEY'VE GOT THE NECK OF YIN'?
THAT'S A BIG FAT LIE.
OBISHA STRONGLY DISLIKES OTHER COUNTRIES' TROOPS COMING ANYWHERE NEAR OUR NATION
JUST LIKE THE PLANS IN THE PAST
THEY PLAN TO HAVE THEMSELVES COMPLETELY CONTROL THE NORTH SO THAT EVEN MIYAKO CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO THEM.

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO I CANNOT LET THE MOST FEVERED "WOLVES" AND "TIGERS" SNAP AT EACH OTHER
PLEASE GRANT TOLS TAI OF THE NORTH, IN ORDER FOR US TO CRUSH THE AMBITIONS OF DERSHA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
WHAT IF I WERE TO PUT CHISUL IN THE MIDDLE ?
THEY'RE NEITHER "WOLVES" NOR "TIGERS"
SO THAT WAY WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT THE KING OF THE PLAINS PLANS TO USE AGAINST YOU


THE EMPEROR IS LEAVING COURT
THAT'S JUST UNBELIEVABLE...
NO ONE WORKED WITH CHARLE WITH THEIR OWN EYES!
SO ISMAIL
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DEAL WITH CHARLE, NO YOUR BROTHER?
NO, SUCH SKILL CAN BE NONE BY EARTHLY.
THAT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE
HE WAS KILLED BY ISMAIL

OH
PROBABLY BURY HIM IN THE SNOW.
THERE WILL BE AN AVALANCHE WHEN STRONG GUSTS AND UNEXPECTED SNOW STORMS ARE COMMON AS WELL!
ON THE WAY TO DERFINA, THERE ARE MOUNTAINS OF SNOW AND ICE.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
AND BURY THAT GIRL, TOO.
EVEN IF I CAN'T KILL HER, I CAN FIND OUT THE EXTENT OF HER POWER.

SEND AN EMISSARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO TELL THE TROOPS OF CHAGUL NOT TO COME TO MIYAKO, BUT TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE MOUNTAINS
THE PEONY GIRL IS FOLLOWED BY PEOPLE OF THE RAICH CLAN.
SO JUST OBSERVE THEM THAT "THIS IS ALL PART OF DESTINY SO DON'T INTERPERE".
!!
AFTER THAT I WILL CREATE THE DESTINY."
WITHOUT REASON...
USING CURSES TO MANIPULATE THE WEATHER AND TEMPERATURE.


YOUR MORNING HEART
WHAT A GREAT FEELING ISHAM...
YOUR ARTERIES THROBBING AS IF THEY'RE ABOUT TO BURST...
IT WOULD BE A SHAME
IF I LET YOU MAKE ANY SOUND